

**City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
City Hall, Work Session Room**

**PRAB Members Present**

Esther Nasjleti  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Jon Stehle  
Bob Reinsel  
Brian Knapp  
Jeff Ferrell  
Kirk Holley  
Jane Albro  
Evie Ifantides  
Joseph Harmon  
Mike Breslin  
Michael Anderson

**Members Absent**

Harry Wilbur  
Mike Slawsky

**Staff Present**

Michael McCarty, Director Parks and Recreation  
Kaveh Tajalli, Facilities Coordinator Parks and Recreation

**Guests**

Patrick Oman – Eagle Scout

Patrick presented his Eagle project, which is a monarch butterfly garden to be installed in November at Ashby Pond. PRAB had consensus to move forward and thanked him for choosing a City park for the project. (Details described under New Business)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Brian Knapp.

**2. Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda**

Minutes from PRAB meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 were approved and moved by Kirk Holley and seconded by Jeff Ferrell. Minutes passed unanimously.

**3. Old Business**

A) By-Laws

Bob Reinsel made motion to approve By-Laws. Zinta Rodgers-Rickett seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

B) Capital Funding Resolution

Chairman Knapp explained that there would not be a vote on the resolution at this meeting. He would like to use the coming weeks to improve the resolution in an effort to achieve a unanimous vote from PRAB. Chairman Knapp explained that the four key elements of the resolution are 1) The importance of Council and the Mayor adopting the three proposed studies (ADA, Green Acres, and Van Dyck; listed in order of priority). 2) Encouraging Council to allow Parks and Recreation revenue to go back to the Parks and Recreation department. 3) Requesting pennies on the dollar and 4) Articulating our needs for a parks bond.

Bob Reinsel suggested giving timeframes for the above actions. He also suggested putting a maintenance line item in the capital budget and feels we need to distinguish between maintenance and CIP.

Michael McCarty agreed that this was the best approach.

Zinta feels we should keep the momentum going as this what the residents have expressed that they would like done.

Joseph Harmon does not want to predispose the outcome to Council by wording that the project “will” cost money versus “may” cost money.

#### C) Old Town Square

Kirk Holley gave an update on his efforts those of the Community Appearance Committee to dispose of the Surf Shop location and use this location as part of the plan for Old Town Square. PRAB will support this effort.

Michael McCarty announced that the grand opening of the Old Town Square will be on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The fencing wraps have been taken down as sidewalk construction is commencing. The oval wall is finished. Trees will begin being planted next week and the rest of the plant material in the spring. The Auld Shebeen project should be finished in two weeks.

### **4. New Business**

A) Chairman Knapp introduced Eagle Scout, Patrick Oman. Patrick presented his idea for a project to PRAB. With the help of Gregg Tonge, Patrick would like to create a 300 square foot space by Ashby Pond that is dedicated as a habitat for monarch butterflies. Joseph Harmon questioned whether there was a more suitable location in the park for this project. Michael McCarty defended that it was good location that would, in fact, reduce mowing responsibilities for the Parks Crew.

#### B) Teen Member

Chairman Knapp introduced the newest member of PRAB, Mike Breslin. Mike is a Junior at Fairfax High School who plays three sports (football, swimming, and lacrosse) and is editor of the school’s newspaper. Mike lives in the Mosby Woods neighborhood. Members of PRAB introduced themselves to Mike.

Bob Reinsel moved to make Mike Breslin be appointed the newest member of PRAB. Zinta seconded. The vote was unanimous.

#### C) Park Naming

Chairman Knapp provided a draft of a park naming report that will be presented to City Council in work session at a later date. The presentation outlines the current policy for the City and does not recommend any changes.

## **5. Parks and Recreation Department Report**

Michael McCarty expressed hope that Council will adopt the proposed Legacy options for the Old Town Square. He was also pleased at the attendance at the most recent three-day charrette for downtown planning (over 200 people in three days). He explained that GMU would like to have an OLLI building downtown whereas others would like to see a theater in the downtown area. Kutner fields are in the process of being refurbished. McCarty hopes to have the vacancy left by Christina Hurdle closed and the new member started by mid-December. He announced that tomorrow (11/14/14) is Alan Green's last day. Upcoming events included the Holiday Craft Show (this weekend), the Turkey Trot (the following week), the Festival of Lights and Carols, Derby-Q (May 2<sup>nd</sup>). He announced the new Leisure Times is due in 2.5 weeks. He also explained the FCPS voted to change the start time for high schools and that staff is evaluating this impact on the Parks and Recreation department. He explained the need to address extending the light schedule at Draper.

## **6. Stakeholder Updates**

A) Bob Reinsel explained the start times for high schools will not begin before 8:00 a.m., middle schools will start earlier, and elementary schools will not change. He also explained that they are trying to get a special use permit to install a monopole at FHS.

B) Joseph Harmon explained that the planned redevelopment for Oak Knolls is still being worked on. He also explained that the Council should revisit the Fairfax Boulevard master plan as it was never fully developed.

C) Jane Albro announced that there is a new Senior Council. She also reminded PRAB that the Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons are coming up, the Flea Market will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Appraisal Event will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

D) Kirk Holley agreed that the visioning charrette was awesome. He believes the citizens "get it" and are willing to see changes in the City.

E) Chairman Knapp reminded PRAB of the NVRPA meeting at the Sherwood Center on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. and the local light show at Meadowlark Regional Botanical Garden opens up on Friday.

## **7. Matters of the Members**

Zinta described that the Ashby Pond Trail is becoming very popular.

Michael Anderson liked how the parking lot relining and sealing worked out at Draper Drive Park.

Bob Reinsel explained that the basketball court at Ranger Road Park is much better.

Esther Najleti requested an updated PRAB contact list. Esther also requested a future discussion on the follow on to the Park Stewart Program

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

**The next PRAB meeting will take place Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, City Hall, Work Session Room**